

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
IO-13 DLOS-09 OES-07 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-03
INR-10 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-07
CEA-01 PA-01 DOE-11 SOE-02 DEAE-00 SNM-05 MCT-01
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APPROVED BY EA/ANP:EHURWITZ
NSC:MARMACOST

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

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E.O. 11652:NA

TAGS: CPRS

SUBJECT:LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER FRASER TO PRESIDENT
CARTER

1. THE FOLLOWING LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER FRASER
TO PRESIDENT CARTER WAS DELIVERED TO THE WHITE HOUSE
BY THE AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY FEBRUARY 27: QUOTE:
 2. MY DEAR JIMMY, TWELVE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT
OF THE ASIAN AND PACIFIC REGION MET IN SYDNEY FROM 13-16
FEBRUARY THIS YEAR. I BELIEVE, AS I KNOW YOU DO, THAT THE
UNITED STATES HAS A MOST IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN THIS
REGION AND I FELT THAT YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN HAVING
AN ACCOUNT OF THE MEETING.
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3. HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES
ATTENDED: AUSTRALIA, BANGLADESH, FIJI, INDIA, MALAYSIA,
NAURU, NEW ZEALAND, PAPUA NEW GUINEA, SINGAPORE, SRI LANKA,
TONGA AND WESTERN SAMOA. THE COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY-
GENERAL, MR. RAMPHAL, ALSO PARTICIPATED IN THE MEETING.

4. THE ORIGINS OF THE MEETING GO BACK TO THE COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVERNMENT MEETING IN LONDON IN JUNE, 1977 WHERE IT WAS AGREED THAT REGIONAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN

COMMONWEALTH MEMBERS COULD BE OF SPECIAL VALUE IN PROMOTING WIDER COMMONWEALTH AND INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVES, AS WELL AS FOSTERING GREATER REGIONAL CO-OPERATION. I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE MODERN COMMONWEALTH WITH ITS GREAT DIVERSITY OF NATIONS AND PEOPLES PLAYS A HELPFUL AND CONSTRUCTIVE ROLE IN WORLD AFFAIRS. I KNOW THAT HIS VIEW -- EXPRESSED FOR EXAMPLE BY ELLIOT RICHARDSON TO MY FOREIGN MINISTER, ANDREW PEACOCK, IN THE CONTEXT OF THE LAW OF THE SEA DELIBERATIONS -- IS ALSO HELD BY YOUR ADMINISTRATION.

5. THE REGION COVERED BY PARTICIPATION IN THE CONFERENCE, WITH ITS ENORMOUS AND VARIED NATURAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES, IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO THE WORLD. HEADS OF GOVERNMENT AT THE MEETING -- REPRESENTING NEARLY ONE FIFTH OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION -- BELIEVED THAT THIS IMPORTANCE OFTEN WENT UNNOTICED AND THAT THE REGION AND ITS PROBLEMS CALLED FOR GREATER INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION AND SUPPORT.

6. OUR DISCUSSIONS RANGED BROADLY ACROSS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC ISSUES. A NUMBER OF HEADS OF GOVERNMENT REFERRED TO THE IMPORTANT ROLE THAT THE UNITED STATES PLAYS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE REGION, AND EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT THIS WAS TO BE WELCOMED AND ENCOURAGED.

7. THE MEETING SPENT SOME TIME DISCUSSING INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES, AND STRESSED THE URGENT NEED FOR ALL COUNTRIES TO ADOPT EFFECTIVE DOMESTIC POLICIES TO ACHIEVE SUSTAINED ECONOMIC RECOVERY, TO OVERCOME INFLATION AND TO SECURE PRICE STABILITY. IT WAS FELT THAT A WEAKER TOTAL WORLD ECONOMY WOULD RESULT IF THE WEAKER ECONOMIES OF THE DEVELOPED NATIONS WERE TO RELY HEAVILY FOR THEIR RECOVERY ON THE REFLATION OF THE MOTOR ECONOMIES, RATHER THAN ON THEIR OWN EFFORTS.

8. THE MEETING LOOKED AT MAJOR ISSUES IN THE CURRENT NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE, IN PARTICULAR THOSE ISSUES IN WHICH THE COMMONWEALTH HAS BEEN BECOMING ACTIVELY INVOLVED THROUGH THE SETTING UP OF WORKING GROUPS, I.E. COMMODITIES AND THE COMMON FUND, INDUSTRIALIZATION, AND FOOD PRODUCTION AND FOOD SECURITY. ON THE COMMON FUND, THE MEETING NOTED THE RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN AUSTRALIA'S POSITION ON THE ISSUES OF OTHER MEASURES AND DIRECT GOVERNMENT CONTRIBUTIONS.

9. A MAJOR ISSUE LOOKED AT UNDER THE DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ISSUES WAS THE PROBLEM OF ACCESS TO MAJOR CONSUMER MARKETS FOR THE EXPORT PRODUCTS OF COUNTRIES IN THE REGION. THE MEETING URGED THE IMPORTANCE OF FREER INTERNATIONAL TRADE TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND IN THIS RESPECT HEADS OF GOVERNMENT STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF IMPROVED ACCESS FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS TO THE MAJOR INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES' MARKETS. THE MEETING EXPRESSED ITS CONCERN OVER RISING PROTECTIONISM IN THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES AGAINST MANUFACTURED GOODS, AND WAS EQUALLY CONCERNED OVER THE DAMAGING EFFECTS OF NON-TARIFF AND OTHER BARRIERS TO TRADE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS. IT WAS NOTED THAT THE RESTRICTIO; IN AGRICULTURAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TRADE HAD A DOUBLY ADVERSE EFFECT ON THE PART OF THOSE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE REGION FOR WHOM AGRICULTURAL EXPORTS COMPRISED A HIGH PROPORTION OF THEIR EXPORT TRADE. THE MEETING ESTABLISHED A CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON TRADE, WHICH WILL BE CONVENED BY AUSTRALIA.

10. I BELIEVE THAT ONE OF THE SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE MEETING WAS THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON ENERGY TO BE CONVENED BY INDIA. I KNOW THAT YOU AGREE WITH THE MEETING'S VIEW THAT THE WORLD IS NOT YET ADDRESSING THE PROBLEM OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY WITH THE URGENCY THAT IS NEEDED. I AM AWARE THAT YOU HAVE PERSONALLY TAKEN A GREAT INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT. THE MEETING EMPHASIZED THE URGENCY OF DEVELOPING APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY FOR THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF ENERGY SUCH AS SOLAR ENERGY, BIOGAS AND WIND POWER AS A SUPPLEMENT TO, AND A SUBSTITUTE FOR, FOSSIL FUELS.

11. THE MEETING DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM OF ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC AND RECOGNIZED THAT THE WORK OF INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES FORMED THE BASIS FOR REGIONAL CO-OPERATION FOR FIGHTING THIS EVIL. A WORKING GROUP ON ILLICIT DRUGS, TO BE CONVENED BY MALAYSIA, WAS ESTABLISHED.

12. THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM OF TERRORISM AND AGREED THAT GREATER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION WAS ESSENTIAL TO COMBAT THIS MENACE. A WORKING GROUP ON TERRORISM, TO BE CONVENED BY SINGAPORE, WAS SET UP.

13. ONE OF THE SIGNIFICANT MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION WAS THE PROBLEM OF SMALL STATES IN THE PACIFIC AREA. PARTICIPANTS AGREED THAT THERE WAS A REAL AND PRESSING NEED FOR SPECIAL MEASURES TO MEET THE EXCEPTIONAL NEEDS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF SMALL ISLAND ECONOMIES. THE MEETING CALLED ON THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO GIVE GREATER ATTENTION TO THE SPECIAL AND SOMETIMES UNIQUE PROBLEMS OF SUCH STATES.

14. ALTHOUGH THE SYDNEY MEETING WAS AN IMPORTANT NEW DEVELOPMENT, THERE WAS A CONCERN ON THE PART OF THOSE PRESENT TO ENSURE THAT NOTHING WAS DONE WHICH MIGHT DUPLICATE ESTABLISHED CHANNELS FOR REGIONAL CONSULTATION

AND CO-OPERATION SUCH AS THE ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH-EAST ASIAN NATIONS AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC FORUM. THESE EXISTING BODIES ARE MAKING AN IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTION TO REGIONAL CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND IT WAS THE FIRM BELIEF OF THE HEADS OF GOVERNMENT THAT THESE EFFORTS DESERVED INCREASING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT.

15. MAY I SAY ALSO THAT I BELIEVE THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC AND THE COLOMBO PLAN, OF WHICH BOTH AUSTRALIA AND THE UNITED STATES ARE FOUNDATION MEMBERS, HAVE MADE VALUABLE CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEVELOPMENT IN THIS PART OF THE WORLD AND DESERVE FULL AND ACTIVE SUPPORT FROM THEIR MEMBERS.

16. I BELIEVE THAT OUR EFFORTS IN SYDNEY WILL PROVE TO BE OF PRACTICAL VALUE TO THE PEOPLE OF THIS REGION AND THAT THEY WILL COMPLEMENT THE OTHER REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ENDEAVOURS IN WHICH OUR TWO COUNTRIES SHARE SO CLOSE AN INTEREST. IT WAS A SOURCE OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO ME THAT THE MEETING DECIDED THAT THERE SHOULD BE A FURTHER SUCH REGIONAL CONFERENCE, TO BE HELD IN DELHI IN 1980, WHEN WE WILL BE ABLE TO REVIEW PROGRESS ON THESE VARIOUS IMPORTANT MATTERS.

17. WITH MY WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS. MALCOLM FRASER.
END QUOTE.

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18. DRAFT REPLY TO LETTER HAS BEEN SENT TO WHITE HOUSE. WHEN SIGNED, DEPARTMENT WILL FORWARD TO EMBASSY CANBERRA FOR DELIVERY. VANCE

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
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Concepts: n/a
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Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Drafter: TJWAJDA:RLW
Enclosure: n/a
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Expiration:
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Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3139408
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LETTER FROM PRIME MINISTER FRASER TO PRESIDENT CARTER
TAGS: CPRS
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/56d5bab9-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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